AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Please cancel claims 3, 6-10, and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15; and add new claims 18-23 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) An image reading apparatus ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

      an original convey unit ~~for moving~~ adapted to move an original ~~on an original table~~ in a sub-scanning direction;

      an image reading unit ~~for reading~~ adapted to read the original ~~image light~~ while moving the original by using said original convey unit;

      an abnormality detection unit ~~for detecting~~ adapted to detect an abnormality on ~~said original table and detecting a pixel corresponding to the abnormality as an abnormal pixel~~ a reading position of said image reading unit before said image reading unit reads the original; and

      a control unit ~~for limiting a predetermined function in accordance with the position of the abnormal pixel~~ adapted to limit an original size in a main-scanning direction which is permitted to be read by said image reading unit in accordance with the position of the abnormality detected by said abnormality detection unit.

2.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity and a position of image data read by said image reading unit to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.

3.   (canceled)

4.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> said abnormality detection unit detects continuity, a position, and a ~~linewidth~~ <u>width</u> of the image data to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ <u>abnormality</u>.

5.   (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit limits a resolution of an image in accordance with the abnormal pixel detected by said abnormality detection unit~~ <u>An image reading apparatus comprising:</u>

<u>an original convey unit adapted to move an original;</u>

<u>an image reading unit adapted to read the original while moving the original by using said original convey unit and output image reading data;</u>

<u>an abnormality detection unit adapted to detect an abnormality on a reading position of said image reading unit before said image reading unit reads the original; and</u>

<u>a control unit adapted to limit a resolution of the image reading data in accordance with the size of the abnormality detected by said abnormality detection unit.</u>

6.-10. (canceled)

11.   (currently amended) An image reading method of reading an original ~~image by illuminating an original with light, characterized by~~ <u>while moving the original in a sub-scanning direction,</u> comprising:

detecting an ~~abnormal state at a portion through which original illumination light passes to detect a pixel corresponding to the abnormal state as an abnormal pixel~~ <u>abnormality on a reading position before reading the original;</u> and

limiting a ~~predetermined function in accordance with the position of the detected abnormal pixel~~ <u>an original size in a main-scanning direction which is permitted to be read in accordance with the position of the detected abnormality.</u>

12. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that in~~ wherein the abnormality detection, continuity and a position of read image data are detected to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.

13. **(canceled)**

14. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that in~~ wherein in the abnormality detection, continuity, a position, and a ~~linewidth~~ width of read image data are detected to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.

15. **(currently amended)** ~~The method according to claim 14, characterized in that in the abnormality detection, a resolution of an image is limited in accordance with the detected abnormal pixel~~ An image reading method of reading an original while moving the original, comprising:

detecting an abnormality on a reading position before reading the original; and

limiting a resolution of image reading data in accordance with the size of the detected abnormality.

16. (original) A program characterized by causing a computer to execute the image reading method defined in claim 11.

17. (original) A storage medium characterized by storing the program defined in claim 16 as a computer-readable program.

18. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity and a position of image data read by said image reading unit to detect the data as an abnormality .

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19.   (new) The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said abnormality detection unit

detects continuity, a position, and a width of image data to detect the data as an

abnormality .

20.   (new) The method according to claim 15, wherein in the abnormality detection,

continuity and a position of read image data are detected to detect the data as an

abnormality .

21.   (new) The method according to claim 15, wherein in the abnormality detection,

continuity, a position, and a width of read image data are detected to detect the data as an

abnormality .

22.   (new) A program characterized by causing a computer to execute the image reading

method defined in claim 15.

23.   (new) A storage medium characterized by storing the program defined in claim 22 as a

computer-readable program.

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